

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the '308 patent is not properly citable as a 102(e) reference as set-forth by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant rejection should be withdrawn.

In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

**AUTHORIZATION**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 13-4500, Order No. 3553-4044US2.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 3553-4044US2. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

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Dated: September 27, 2001

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